

Top News

NZ dollar gains as Hurricane Harvey adds to negative greenback sentiment

The New Zealand dollar rose as Hurricane Harvey caused widespread flooding in the Houston area, adding to negative sentiment for the US dollar already suffering from lack of policy momentum from the Trump administration and the looming showdown on raising the US debt ceiling.

The US has until early October to raise the debt limit before the Treasury runs out of money to pay the federal government's bills and debate among lawmakers is likely to see a repeat of the standoffs in 2011 and 2013. Complicating the latest debate is President Donald Trump's frustration at seeing his policy plans stalled. Meanwhile, the storm raging over Houston could be causing as much as US\$100 billion of damage, making it the worst since Hurricane Katrina.

The greenback dropped at the end of last week after Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen left out any comment on monetary policy in a speech to a central bank symposium in Jackson Hole.

Wall St weighs hurricane Harvey impact

Wall Street was mixed as shares of insurance and oil companies including Travelers fell while those of home improvement chains including Home Depot gained as investors tried to assess the catastrophic impact of hurricane Harvey on the Texas economy. US crude oil futures dropped while gasoline prices climbed as Harvey devastated Houston and battered the Gulf Coast.

The Dow moved lower as declines in shares of Travelers and those of Goldman Sachs, down 2.8% and 1.4% respectively, outweighed gains in shares of Home Depot and those of Apple, up 1.3% and 1% respectively recently.

Shares of Amazon traded higher, up 0.1% as of 3.22pm, as the new owner of Whole Foods Market slashed the grocery chain's prices on popular items.

Shares of Expedia dropped, trading 4.4% weaker as of 3.26pm in New York, after reports that its CEO Dara Khosrowshahi will be leaving the company to run Uber Technologies.

NZ shares fall; Chorus at month-low, Metro Glass drops, Metlifecare rises

New Zealand shares fell, led by Chorus which hit a one-month low, while Metro Performance Glass extended last week's slide and Metlifecare rallied.

Chorus led the index lower, down 5.6% to \$4.39. It lifted annual profit 24% to \$113 million after cutting costs and changing the way it capitalises some labour costs, making up for a decline in connection numbers that's been driven by the network operator's biggest customer, Spark New Zealand. It forecast gross capital expenditure for 2018 of \$780-\$820 million, up from \$639 million in 2017.

Metlifecare was the best performer, up 3.4% to \$6.07. The retirement village operator reported a 10% increase in full-year profit to \$251.5 million on the back of resale gains and wider development margins and said it isn't yet seeing any impact from a slowdown in New Zealand's housing market. Heartland Bank rose 2.1% to \$1.93, Comvita gained 1.7% to \$7.32 and SkyCity Entertainment Group advanced 1.3% to \$3.97.

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NZX Index				
Index	Last		Change	
S&P/NZX All Index	8,475.56	35.38	↓	0.42%
S&P/NZX 50 Index	7,826.87	31.72	↓	0.40%
S&P/NZX Mid Cap Index	22,503.62	131.24	↓	0.58%
S&P/NZX Small Cap	52,5104.07	447.32	↓	0.84%
S&P/NZAX All Index	554.82	5.69	↑	1.04%
ASX Index				
Index	Last		Change	
ALL ORDINARIES	5,771.2	32.2	↓	0.56%
S&P/ASX 200	5,709.9	34.0	↓	0.60%
S&P/ASX SMALL ORD	2,410.6	7.6	↓	0.32%
S&P/ASX MIDCAP 50	6,196.8	41.0	↓	0.66%
S&P/ASX 20	3,215.8	22.0	↓	0.68%
Foreign Markets Index				
	Last		Change	
S&P 500	2,444.24	1.19	↑	0.05%
DJIA	21,808.40	5.27	↓	0.02%
Nasdaq	6,283.02	17.38	↑	0.28%
FTSE 100	7,401.46	5.60	↓	0.08%
ALL ORDINARIES	5,771.20	32.20	↓	0.56%
Nikkei 225	19,449.90	2.71	↓	0.01%
Hang Seng	27,863.29	15.13	↑	0.05%
Currencies (per NZ\$ 1.00)				
	Last		Change	
AUD	0.9110	0.0028	↓	0.31%
USD	0.7257	0.0015	↑	0.21%
CNY	4.7960	0.0170	↓	0.35%
EUR	0.6059	0.0004	↓	0.07%
CAD	0.9075	0.0039	↑	0.43%
GBP	0.5611	0.0010	↑	0.18%
JPY	79.2900	0.2350	↑	0.30%
NZ Interest Rates				
	Last		Change	
NZ OCR	1.75			
3-month Bank Bill	1.96			
5-year Swap	2.65			
10-year Swap	3.13			
Commodities				
	Last		Change	
Spot Gold \$US	1,310.25	19.66	↑	1.52%
Spot Silver \$US	17.44	0.39	↑	2.26%
Oil(WTI)	47.87	0.28	↑	0.59%